

Botany Intern

Southern California is one of five places in the world that have Mediterranean –type ecosystems. The Santa Monica Mountains contain over 900 native plant species that occur in over 200 vegetation associations. This unique assemblage of plants is threatened by direct and indirect effects of urban encroachment, particularly impacts from establishment of introduced invasive species and unnaturally high fire frequencies. The intern will participate in work to inventory, monitor, and understand the changes in the plant communities of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Major Duties (You will increase your ability to):

- Survey and assess populations of rare, threatened and endangered plant species.
- Survey for invasive plants.
- Collect plot-based vegetation and habitat data; with emphasis on riparian and coastal sage scrub habitats and recently burned areas.
- Data entry and analysis.

Requirements:

- Intern must be a US citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Undergraduate degree in biology, botany, or ecology.
- Familiarity with the southern California flora and general botany.
- Familiarity with Santa Monica Mountains native plant vegetation is helpful.
- Ability to identify plants to species using a key; ability to gather field data with accuracy.
- Familiarity with vegetation mapping and sampling techniques is desired.
- Ability to learn to navigate using map, compass and geographic positioning equipment.
- Ability to perform computer work processing and database management.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, and geographic information systems (ArcGIS) is desirable.
- Ability to compile and organize information to assist with technical reports.
- Ability to work well both independently and as part of a team, be detail-oriented and organized.
- Good oral & written communication skills; ability to follow oral and written directions.
- Valid driver's license.
- Must have own transportation to and from worksite. Government vehicles are available for intern use within the scope of their internship.

Work Site and Conditions:

- Position involves substantial amounts of walking in rough terrain such as dense chaparral or streams.
- Commitment of 12 weeks, full time, is preferred, but part time schedules may be arranged for local residents.
- Intern will work weekdays. Specific schedules will be determined based upon availability, field work coordinator schedules and project needs.
- Position may involve computer station work in an office setting
- A fingerprint and background check may be required.

Compensation:

A stipend of \$20 per workday is available. Intern will be paid monthly or as worked out by the intern supervisor. Full time interns from outside the area may be eligible for shared housing.

For questions contact: sheila_braden@nps.gov

To apply: send letter of application, resume, three reference contacts, your available dates and an unofficial transcript via email to sheila_braden@nps.gov (rev. Jan. 2012)